



Resolution to Eliminate Secondhand Smoke in Public Places

Whereas, the U.S. Surgeon General has determined that simple separation of smokers and nonsmokers within the same air space does not eliminate the exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

Whereas, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute determined that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of 65,000 Americans annually.

Whereas, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that secondhand smoke cannot be reduced to safe levels in businesses by high rates of ventilation. Air cleaners, which are capable of filtering the particulate matter and odors in smoke, do not eliminate the known 5,000 chemicals – including arsenic, cyanide and formaldehyde and other toxins – in secondhand smoke.

Whereas, employees who work in smoke-filled businesses suffer a 25-50% higher risk of heart attack and higher rates of death from cardiovascular disease and cancer, as well as increased acute respiratory disease and measurable decrease in lung function.

Whereas, smoke-filled workplaces result in higher worker absenteeism due to respiratory disease, lower productivity, higher cleaning and maintenance costs, increased health insurance rates, and increased liability claims for diseases related to exposure to secondhand smoke.

Whereas, there is conclusive proof that smoke free air laws do not have adverse economic consequences for businesses subject to them; moreover, there is much evidence that smoke free air laws have a positive economic effect on those businesses.

Be it therefore resolved, that on this date, October 12, 2005 that the Service Employees International Union, Wisconsin District 1199 United Professionals for Health-care, endorses the Milwaukee Tobacco Free Task force, which will work to:

- Protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment and;
- Guarantee the rights of nonsmokers to breathe smoke-free air.

Be it therefore resolved, that on this date, October 12, 2005 that the Service Employees International Union, Wisconsin District 1199 United Professionals for Quality Health-care will:

- Inform its members and the general public of its endorsements of the Resolution and;
- Inform local elected officials of its endorsement and urge its members to do the same.

From: <WMarsh2939@aol.com>
To: <marshwc@dhfs.state.wi.us>
Date: 3/2/06 6:32AM
Subject: (no subject)

